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# World Production and Trade

United States  
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Foreign  
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Service

Washington, D.C. 20250

Weekly  
Roundup

WR 29-85

July 17, 1985

The Foreign Agricultural Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture today reported the following developments in world agriculture and trade:

## GRAIN AND FEED

ITALY's 1985/86 wheat crop is estimated at 8.9 million tons, down 11 percent from last year's record outturn. Soft wheat production is estimated at 5.1 million tons, a decrease of 6 percent from last year's crop of 5.4 million, while durum production is estimated at 3.8 million, down 17 percent from last year's record harvest of 4.6 million. Hot dry winds, particularly in Sicily, reduced estimated durum yields. Average durum yield is estimated at 2.2 tons per hectare, down 14 percent from last year's record of 2.5 tons. The 1985/86 durum harvest has been completed while the soft wheat harvest is underway.

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In the SOVIET UNION, the forage harvest is being impeded by widespread precipitation over most of the western part of the country, according to the U.S. agricultural attache in Moscow. Showers caused problems in some areas, while heavy rain fell in others. The weather is affecting the quality as well as the quantity of the forage. The forage harvest progress report of July gave the following data:

Type	7/8/85	7/9/84	7/11/83	7/12/82	7/6/81
	----- (Million metric tons) -----				
Hay	22.4	23.3	34.3	20.8	22.5
Haylage	31.7	35.0	39.7	30.5	30.3
Silage	3.2	4.6	6.9	4.2	11.0
Dehydrated meal	2.3	2.7	3.4	2.8	2.4

U.S.D.A. RECEIVED

Forage crops in 1983 and 1984 were affected by drought by early July.

While the grain harvest has begun, no grain harvest progress reports had been issued by the USSR as of July 8. That harvest also has been affected by the rainy weather. As of July 1, 1984, 3.8 million hectares of small grains and pulses had been cut. In 1983, the comparable figure was 10.9 million hectares.

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LYNN K. GOLDSBROUGH, Editor, Tel. (202) 382-9442. Additional copies may be obtained from FAS Media and Public Affairs Branch, 5918-S, Washington, D.C. 20250. Tel. (202) 447-7937.



## OILSEEDS AND PRODUCTS

The USDA has increased the 1985/86 MEXICAN sunflowerseed import forecast to 675,000 tons from 600,000 tons, reflecting higher demand for sunflowerseed oil. The 1985/86 cottonseed import estimate was also increased to 150,000 tons from 100,000 tons. The higher cottonseed imports reflect a commitment by Mexico to maintain high employment levels in cottonseed mills in northern Mexico. Soybean imports are estimated at 1.55 million tons in 1985/86, a 50,000-ton increase from the previous estimate. USDA estimates 1984/85 imports of soybean, sunflowerseed and cottonseed at 1.55 million tons, 725,000 tons, and 80,000 tons, respectively.

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The EGYPTIAN General Authority for Supply Commodities (GASC) recently bought 35,000 tons of U.S. soybeans, the first purchase of soybeans for import directly into Egypt. Soybean shipments to Egypt had previously been to the plant operating in the free port of Alexandria. Most of the meal and oil produced at that plant had been shipped to other points in the Middle East. USDA estimates Egypt's 1984/85 soybean imports at 150,000 tons with 1985/86 imports forecast at 175,000 tons.

## DAIRY, LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

Broiler production in AUSTRIA is forecast at 59,000 tons in 1985, nearly 2 percent above 1984 according to the U.S. agricultural counselor in Vienna. Improved broiler prices and lower feed prices during 1984 are the major reasons for the expected higher output.

## TOBACCO

On July 6, SOUTH KOREA's Office of Supply (OSROK) announced awards in a tender for 540 tons of U.S. flue-cured tobacco held June 7. The f.o.b. prices were \$4.14 per kilogram for 180 tons of 1981 crop tobacco and \$7.68 per kilogram for 360 tons of 1982 crop tobacco. The tobacco will be shipped in late July and/or early August. This is the first Korean purchase of flue-cured tobacco since 1981, when Korea bought 4,360 tons of tobacco from the United States. The tender was held by OSROK on behalf of the Office of Monopoly, Korea's sole cigarette manufacturer. OSROK included only five major joint-venture tobacco processing and exporting firms that operate in Korea in the list of companies invited to submit offers. In the final award, purchases were divided almost equally among those firms.

## SEEDS

Exports of U.S. seed for planting totaled \$332 million for the July 1984-May 1985 period, up 6 percent from a year earlier. Forage seeds totaled \$61 million and vegetable seeds \$120 million, up 1 percent and down 1 percent, respectively. Corn seed exports increased 16 percent in value to \$67 million. Major markets were the European Community--\$91 million, Mexico--\$51 million and Japan--\$41 million.

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## FRUITS AND NUTS

The U.S. agricultural trade officer in Tunis forecasts 1985/86 TUNISIAN almond production at a record 16,000 tons (shelled basis), 7 percent above the estimated 1984/85 volume of 15,000 tons. Growing conditions during the past four years have been extremely favorable, resulting in optimal yields and kernel size.

Almonds are an important crop in Tunisia, accounting for approximately 16 percent of the total tree crop area, and about 4 percent of tree crop production. Numerous varieties are produced, the preferred one being a local variety "Achaak". Several U.S. varieties (Peerless, Non Pareil, Drake and Texas) are planted throughout the country. Data are as follows:

Year	Area Planted 1,000 Ha	Area Harvested 1,000 Ha	Bearing Trees Million	Non-Bearing Trees Million	Production 1/ 1,000 MT
1983/84	295	265	18	1	13
1984/85	300	270	19	1	15
1985/86 2/	300	270	20	1	16

1/Shelled basis. 2/Preliminary.

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The FRENCH Ministry of Agriculture has released a preliminary estimate of dried prune production for the 1985/86 season of 28,000 tons, 28 percent below the record 1984/85 volume, but still a substantial outturn if realized. Average fruit size is reportedly significantly larger than last season.

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In WEST GERMANY, damage from excessively cold winter temperatures (reported in WR 14-85) is expected to reduce 1985 wine grape output substantially, according to the U.S. agricultural counselor in Bonn. The West German wine industry estimates that 30 to 40 percent of all vineyards have been badly affected. In 1984, West German wine must production totaled 8.79 million hectoliters.



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Selected International Prices

Item	: July 16, 1985	: Change from	: A year
	:	: previous week	: ago
ROTTERDAM PRICES 1/	\$ per MT	\$ per bu.	\$ per MT
Wheat:			
Canadian No. 1 CWRS-13.5%.	N.Q.	--	188.00
U.S. No. 2 DNS/NS: 14%....	155.50	4.23	173.50
U.S. No. 2 S.R.W. ....	136.00	3.70	151.00
U.S. No. 3 H.A.D.....	167.00	4.55	183.00
Canadian No. 1 A: Durum...	174.00	4.74	189.00
Feed grains:			
U.S. No. 3 Yellow Corn...	125.75	3.19	157.00
Soybeans and meal:			
U.S. No. 2 Yellow.....9/	229.00	6.23	279.40
Brazil 47/48% SoyaPellets	155.00	--	187.00
U.S. 44% Soybean Meal....	149.50	--	188.00
U.S. FARM PRICES 3/			
Wheat.....	109.12	2.97	119.40
Barley.....	75.33	1.64	78.54
Corn.....	103.15	2.62	129.53
Sorghum.....	95.68	4.34 2/	109.57
Broilers 7/.....	1143.53	--	1224.88
EC IMPORT LEVIES			
Wheat 5/.....	95.70	2.60	103.45
Barley.....	85.40	1.86	74.35
Corn.....	77.00	1.96	46.90
Sorghum.....	97.65	2.48	76.70
Broilers 4/ 6/ 8/.....	173.00	--	161.00
EC INTERVENTION PRICES 7/			
Common wheat(feed quality)	140.45	3.82	144.75
Bread wheat (min. quality)7/	150.30	4.09	154.90
Barley and all			
other feed grains.....	140.45	--	144.75
Broilers 4/ 6/.....	N.Q.	--	1139.00
EC EXPORT RESTITUTIONS (subsidies)			
Wheat .....	15.65	.43	10.25
Barley.....	31.95	.70	16.90
Broilers 4/ 6/ 8/.....	101.00	N.Q.	103.00

1/ Asking prices in U.S. dollars for imported grain and soybeans, c.i.f., Rotterdam. 2/ Hundredweight (CWT). 3/ Twelve-city average, wholesale weighted average. 4/ EC category--70 percent whole chicken. 5/ Reflects lower EC export subsidy--down to 20.00 ECU/100 bag effective 9/14/83 from 22.50 ECU/100 bag set in 2/83. 6/ F.o.b. price for R.T.C. broilers at West German border. 7/ Reference price. 8/Reflects change in level set by EC. 9/ September delivery. N.A.=None authorized. N.Q.=Not quoted. Note: Basis August delivery.